



# Restless Waters

*Jessica Park*

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Jessica Park

**Restless Waters** Jessica Park

*A storm is coming, and with storms come restless waters.*

Pulled from the depths of catastrophe and depression, Blythe McGuire has learned to escape from her past while embracing the future. A future now entwined with the Shepherd siblings.

With Chris, she shares a staggering romance that kicks heartbreak's ass.

With Sabin, she shares an intense friendship, one that's becoming more complicated than either had expected. A friendship now being put to the test because Sabin's brutal past still haunts him. Because trauma is the gift that keeps on giving without mercy.

Now Sabin is the one left drowning and struggling to breathe, and his turmoil threatens to send all three into dark currents they cannot escape. Even after going through her own hell, saving Sabin will take much more than Blythe had anticipated. Their connection and their love could help, but getting him to reach for her hand could be Blythe's biggest challenge ever.

## Restless Waters Details

Date : Published August 26th 2015 by Flat Finn, Inc.

ISBN :

Author : Jessica Park

Format : Kindle Edition 234 pages

Genre : New Adult, Romance, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review *Restless Waters* for online ebook

Sharon ♡👉 is an emotional book junkie 👈♡ says

To be honest, I was perfectly happy with how things ended in *Left Drowning* and it's sooo obvious what this book will be about that I had a hard time deciding if I should read it or not! Of course, I couldn't resist...I mean, it's Sabin! I had to make sure he came out okay!

The book starts off with everyone at the house in Maine having had an amazing summer. But school is starting and Estelle, Eric and James are leaving. Blythe is still okay with that because her, Chris and Sabin will still be there.

Or will they? Sabin drops a bombshell and Blythe is beside herself. Her and Sabin are best friends and she doesn't want to lose him.

Well, one of the problems for me was that I couldn't buy into Blythe not having a clue about Sabin. Granted she was caught up in things but it was excruciating reading about her trying to figure things out.

Also, I just love her and Chris together and Chris was even more amazing in this book. Most guys would not be able to do what he did.

I did enjoy reading about what everyone was up to and how they are finding themselves and I just love their little happy family unit. I was with Blythe in not wanting things to change.

We do get to find out a lot more about what happened to Chris and Sabin and sometimes it was hard to read. They have been broken for so long that it's hard to know if they will make it out.

So, would I recommend this book? Well, if you loved *Left Drowning* then yes, I would. It's a hard read at times but the journey is worth it.

### **Favorite quote:**

♥ "Where Sabin go?"  
"My Chris."

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### **Polly says**

You know when an author takes a couple and destroys them for no reason? Yeah no thanks.  
Horrible  
This chick is the epitome of dumb. Does she have a brain?

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## Beverly says

I have struggled with this review, my rating and my thoughts on this book from the very beginning. To be honest, I was psyched to read this one ever since my bestie sent me the cover. I wasn't sure what the synopsis was, but I was ready to jump in, since I absolutely loved *Left Drowning*.

The story picks with everyone in Maine for the summer, but the summer is coming to an end and everyone is going their separate ways. Chris and Blythe will be remaining in Maine, while the other "kids" go back to school, and Sabin starts his own adventure in California. From the very beginning I got a hint of something I didn't care for (view spoiler) and it stuck with me throughout the entire story. I feel like these feelings ultimately ruined my experience.

The story focuses on Sabin's issues and how they connect to Chris and Blythe, individually. I felt for Sabin I truly did. At times I felt like Blythe did more to hurt than help and that really disappointed me. After all we went through in *Left Drowning* I needed Blythe to be better than her actions in *Restless Waters*. (view spoiler)

Now onto this audiobook, **wow, so freaking fantastic!** The audiobook has music that accompanies narration and the music is so raw and relative to the story it left me breathless at times. It really conveyed the hurt and longing Sabin felt, which again further aggravated my feelings toward Blythe. See I just keep coming back to it, I am like a broken record here!

If you have stuck with through this review then you see my struggle. I don't love this story and honestly it took away some of my love from *Left Drowning*. But the audiobook is probably my most favorite I have ever listened to. So I give the narration and music 5+ Stars and story 3 - 3.5 Stars.

*ARC kindly provided in exchange for an honest review.*

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## Anna says

That Chapter 11 title though..... I know I'm gonna need it and it's strategically placed at the right point of where my heart will probably be imploding .... Just saying. This author. She gets me. ♥?

And it will look so lovely next to this baby :

**"Sometimes, I feel like...fuck, I don't know."**

**But I do know. I have been there.**

**"Like you were left drowning."**

**"Yes."**

**"And you're struggling to breathe."**

**"Yes."**

**"So, do it. Breathe. Just breathe."**

**"There's no air, Blythe."**

**"Reach for me. I won't let you drown. I'm right here." He rubs my back some more and then laughs lightly.**

**"You're already taken."**

**"I have two hands, Sabin. Grab one." He thinks for a while, and I feel him take hold of his own hands to fully encircle me in his embrace. "I'm trying, love. I'm trying."**

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## **Whitney says**

### **5 Healing Stars!**

Jessica Park, I can always count on you to tug - ferociously - at my heart strings.

Unlike many reviews I have read, I was not hesitant to jump into this book. I knew that I love the Shepherds and the McGuires; I knew that I was ready for more. How could anyone turn away from Sabin's story? Sabin was the only Shepherd sibling that didn't have someone at the end of *Left Drowning*. And I was determined to see what JP had in store for him.

Sabin, like all of the Shepherd's clan, is broken. The only difference is he hasn't found that special someone to share his burdens. *Or has he?* When the lines start to blur for him, he retreats to California to start anew.

The move only sends him into a deeper depression. He won't take Blythe's calls and he's not coming home for Christmas. Chris, being the wonderful person he is, brings Christmas to California for Blythe's peace of mind. While Sabin reluctantly agrees to participate, he's struggling. He's struggling with Chris; he's struggling with Blythe. He's lashing out at the people that loves him the most.

Blythe is determined to help Sabin. He keeps pushing her away, but she knows that he needs her. Yes, their relationship is odd. Yes, there is sparks between them. She is with Chris. She is deeply in love with Chris. However, she also deeply loves Sabin.

***'Sometimes, I feel like...fuck, I don't know.'***

***But I do know. I have been there.***

***'Like you were left drowning.'***

***'Yes.'***

***'And you're struggling to breathe.'***

***'Yes.'***

***'So, do it. Breathe. Just breathe.'***

***'There's no air, Blythe.'***

*'Reach for me. I won't let you drown. I'm right here.' He rubs my back some more and then laughs lightly.*

*'You're already taken.'*

*'I have two hands, Sabin. Grab one.' He thinks for a while, and I feel him take hold of his own hands to fully encircle me in his embrace. "I'm trying, love. I'm trying."*

I adored this book. It was everything I could have imagined it would be. There were times, I must admit, that I was upset at Blythe and Sabin. I wondered if Chris and Blythe would make it through this - through Sabin's turmoil. Chris became their anchor and their voice of reason. It made me love him even more.

*"There is life after hell. There is breathing and life and profound love after hell."*

One more thing - Please purchase the audiobook. It is amazing. Sabin will sing to you. It is oh-so-worth it. :)  
*Thanks Christy for that recommendation!*

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## **Joy says**

### **17,000 Bingo Kiss Stars**

I am beside myself and absolutely giddy for this book. I've loved all of these characters since I read Left Drowning. Their beautiful relationships and dynamic even in their brokenness left me wanting more! So needless to say when I heard of the surprise release of Restless Waters there was no hesitation.

Blythe, despite the loss of her parents, may be the luckiest girl ever. She has the unfailing love of two Shepherd men. Chris, who is her end game and Sabin, her very best friend.

Even though this is from Blythe's POV it is very much Sabin's story. My beautifully, broken Sabin. I love him. Honestly nonfictional feelings for a fictional character. He loves Blythe, that much we know from Left Drowning. But now he's questioning his feelings for her. Sabin is guilt ridden for so many reasons and he trying to figure things out on his own.

I was kind of scared when I read part of the blurb and the further into the book I got I just couldn't wrap my head around how this would all play out but it did. Chris and Sabin both love Blythe so completely and yet so differently at the same time. I was so happy to see that transition and more than happy that she gets both of these men in her life in two different capacities but with so much love. I have to say there is this revelation at some point in the book that literally made me weep. It's so poignant and so touching that I believe I could read the passage everyday for the rest of my life and never tire of it. Thank you Jessica Park for giving us more of these characters. They will certainly stay with me forever!

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## **Jacqueline's Reads says**

Restless Waters is the second book in the Left Drowning series. I'm going to go against the grain and say you don't have to read the first book, Left Drowning, to understand Restless Waters. Why do you ask? Well, it's been some time since I read the first book, but Jessica Park does such a great recap in Restless Waters, I got what was happening, but of course you don't get the FULL feel of the book unless you read the full series.

I did the audio version of this book and I can honestly say Restless Waters was the most unique audio book I have listened to. I have listened to a few audio books that have pushed the boundaries, but this is the first one where music was incorporated into the story (for me at least).

This was not an easy book to listen to, and no, it's not because of the narrator, the narrator was actually perfect and no, it wasn't because of the singer and yes you read that right there was a singer, but the story was REALLY hard for me to embrace.

This is a tortured book, it's painful and filled to the brim with angst, tension and guilt. It wouldn't be a Jessica Park novel if it wasn't. So this is for those that can handle that that want that, that EMBRACE that. Get my drift?

The story continues from Left Drowning and it's mostly the story of Chris, Sabin and of course our Heroine, Blythe. I didn't know anything about this book prior to picking it up so the beginning started kind of light, just about family and friends being with each other. Of course, nothing is as easy as it seems.

Everyone has past pains in this book. Chris and Sabin are brothers and have been abused by their father. Blythe is Chris's girlfriend and they are madly in love with each other, but Blythe is concerned for Chris because of all the abuse he went through. Blythe and Sabin have this unique best friend / love for each other relationship that borders unhealthy (again in my opinion) and somewhat co-dependent.

I liked Chris and Blythe's relationship. I LOVED Chris. I love his protectiveness towards not only his girlfriend, but towards his family as well. I love that he does so much and ask for nothing in return. Sabin, I have mixed feelings towards. This book is mainly about Sabin and his struggles. I could say he's coming-to-age in away. He has all this anger towards his father, he has all these emotions against and towards Blythe that it gives me whiplash. Sabin's feeling (platonic or not) is the main focus of the book and we don't really UNDERSTAND him until he starts to unravel.

Blythe was also very difficult for me to get along with. Her hot and cold personality was unpleasant and her need to please Sabin made me feel sad for her. I just didn't understand the relationship they had and that may be the reason why I missed key elements of the book.

Throughout the book we get to listen to Sabin sing and yes there is a male singer that sings. I kind of wished we had Sabin's POV so we could listen to a male voice because I felt like the singing parts were kind of a tease. Overall, I enjoyed these parts.

I enjoyed the main narrator and I felt like she was the voice of Blythe and conveyed the main character's emotions perfectly. She added to the story and like I said, I wished there was a male narrator.

As difficult as it was to listen to this book, it's actually really beautiful. I respect hard books, the ones that have so much emotion, anger and problems. They had depth, feelings and so much that adds to the story. I liked how Jessica created tortured characters and kind of brought all these misfits together to find some kind of peace. The characters may not have been my favorite, but I understand the meaning and plot of the book.

An Audio Copy was provided

REVIEW | AMAZON  
AMAZON

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### **Mysza says**

\*\*\* 3,5 stars \*\*\*

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### **Angela says**

I have never written a review for this..but just felt the need to do so and rant. This was the most unnecessary sequel ever to a book. I loved loved loved Left Drowning. Jessica Park has always been one of my most favorite authors and human beings. Left Drowning is one of the most epic books ever for me and I can't count the number of times I read it. It's beautiful, sexy, heartbreaking and just magical!Chris and Blythe are among my most favorite book couples ever! I can't even explain how this book means to me.

But Restless Waters ruined Left Drowning for me. It was what I disliked the most in romance books- love triangles and cheating! The whole thing of Sabin falling in love with Blythe was so unnecessary and how both were confused and didn't understand if they are in love or not with each other is such bullshit. How old are they?12?SMH. It totally ruined Chris and Blythe's love story and everything about Left Drowning. And I also hated how Chris and Blythe connection was also ruined by including Sabine's special connection to her in the flashbacks. And also wth is making Chris make them realize that they aren't really in love and how he expected them to one day try. Sorry it didn't make me love Chris more but it made me get annoyed with him. Which man would be so stupid to be ok with his gf kissing his brother and not make a big deal?It is a big deal! I never really cared that much about Sabine but it ruined Blythe's character for me by making her a cheater. Sorry but a kiss and her thoughts alone are still cheating to me and isn't as innocent as the book is trying to make it out to be! And the ending was even worse by making Chris and Sabin kiss again as friends..as if friends do that yeah right

I need to really block out this book from my thoughts and make as if it never existed tbh. That's why I never wished any second book from any series now. Ugh.

1 star and that only for the love making scene between Chris and Blythe at the start. It was scorching hot! The only good thing about this book.

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### **Michelle says**

*Copy provided by author in exchange for an honest review*



Before I begin my review on **Restless Waters**, I just wanted to point out that **Left Drowning** was the book that solidified my love for Jessica Park. It was the first book that I had read of hers which made me researched her other books and hence introduced me to the Flat Out Love Series. And when I look back on my list of favorite books, Left Drowning is definitely on there. This book stole my heart and left a big memorable impression on how broken characters can find healing, forgiveness, and love. The ending of Left Drowning I loved. I was satisfied and it left a smile on my face. So when I found out there was a continuation of the story that mostly centered on Sabin Shepherd, I was equally excited and nervous of where Jessica Park would take her readers.

**Restless Waters** picks off where it last left off in Left Drowning so this book can't be read as a standalone. My review for this book will be quite different because I don't feel it is necessary to rehash what the book is about. But what I will tell you is that this book is much more of an emotional connection of Sabin/ Blythe/ Chris dynamic. These three will strip readers bare as Ms. Park douses readers with an onslaught of raw emotions. She takes her readers on a journey where a magnitude of emotions are running rampant . While this book is told in Blythe's POV, readers will feel the emotional connection of Blythe and Sabin. As broken characters, they have this strong connection to one another that may have been blurred because of their intense friendship but don't fret this is not a love triangle. Restless Water is a story that redefines the bonds of Chris, Blythe and Sabin. It is a story that completes the whole healing process and that begins with honesty.

While Left Drowning will still be my favorite of the two books, I have to admit that Chris stole my heart in Restless Waters. Ms. Park further emphasized what a beautiful man he is inside and out. I loved that he didn't taint or see malice in the friendship of Blythe and Sabin. As much as I loved the ending of Left Drowning, it makes me happy to know that Sabin is in a place in his life where he is content and can heal from his broken past. So thank you Ms. Park for bringing back these characters. So if you are looking for a story where the author paints a literary masterpiece of beauty, closure, love, healing, and second chances then I highly recommend you to read Left Drowning and Restless Waters.

*Review can also be found on Four Chicks Flipping Pages: <http://fourchicksflippingpages.weebly...>Jessica Park*

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**Christy says**

**4 stars!!!**

“It’s hard to float in a storm.”

The first thing I’m going to say about *Restless Waters* is that if you pick this one up, do yourself a favorite and GRAB THE AUDIO BOOK! The music is something that will enhance the book so much. It was

beautiful, stunning, and made this an experience to listen. As a lot of you know, *Left Drowning* is one of my all time favorite reads. I've read it, re-read it, and Blythe, Chris, Sabin and the rest of the crew are ones that are in my heart. Reading another book about them made me equal parts excited and nervous. So I put it off. And I put it off some more. Then I finally read it. Although it wasn't that epic read that *Left Drowning* was for me, it was still a book that made me feel and made my heart ache for my characters I love so much. Reading about Sabin's struggles devastated me.

Blythe and Sabin have been best friends since he stole her coffee. They have a different kind of friendship and relationship. They always have. Sabin has a past that still haunts him and issues going on right now that are messing with his head. Trying to get away from this, he moves cross country to California. Most of the book takes place there. Of course Blythe and Chris go to visit him and Blythe helps him work through his issues. But here is where the problem lies- she is one of his issues. And dealing with his issues are just making her have issues. It's a tangled web. And all I have to say is THANK GOD FOR CHRIS! Because he is who they really both need.

I know a lot of people were bothered by the dynamics of Blythe and Sabin's relationship, and I get it, I really do. Fortunately, this did not bother me so much. I got a little irked that (view spoiler). Overall though, I understand their friendship and relationship. I get them. They are damaged people and sometimes they need each other to lean on. We all need a friend like that. There were moments that made me cry, that deep down devastated me, but by the end, I was happy with how things were. Things were right again and I had a big smile on my face. Once again, I'm going to say if you read this, READ THE AUDIO! I can't stress this enough. It's amazing!

“Of course we circled back to each other. This is where we all belong.”

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## AJ says

### 4 'broken but healing' stars

This is the follow on from the fabulous *Left Drowning*, and takes us back to life with Blythe, Chris and their families as their story continues. These characters have all overcome devastating trauma in their pasts to reach a place where they are happy, but healing from the past and moving on isn't something that happens in a moment, it's an ongoing journey, and this is the continuing story of the characters that I met and fell in love with in the first book.

Set a few months after the end of *Left Drowning*, this book reads as a direct carry-on, with not a lot of rehash, so if it's been a while since you've read that book I'd suggest a reread. I got to about 8% in this book and realised there was a lot I didn't remember, so I put it down to have a quick flick through *Left Drowning*, and it's such an awesome book that I ended up rereading the whole thing :P I enjoyed the reread, but more than that, it provided me with a good base to go on and enjoy this book. There are so many moments – big and small – that are carried over from the first book, and I would have missed a lot of the context had I not

done my reread first, so just keep that in mind before you dive into this one.

*This summer has been idyllic ... more than that, it's the unification of this group of formerly lost souls. It's been a syrupy lovefest for the past three months, and I wish it could last forever. I think about that stupid fucking saying, Absence makes the heart grow fonder, and I want to barf. I'm already beyond fond of everyone, so I'm all set.*

Again, the story is told from the POV of Blythe, and while she and Chris remain a central part of the story, the focus also shifts to her best friend, and Chris' brother, Sabin. Sabin is quite the character, and an absolute scene-stealer from the first book so I was so excited to get to delve more deeply into his story. Like his siblings, he endured a hideous upbringing, and he has issues related to that that are very personal to him, issues that he hasn't dealt with and that continue to plague him. Added to that, he isn't coping well with changes occurring within his family, and life for him starts to spiral out of control.

Blythe and Chris have been through a lot together. They are still madly in love, and they continue to fight their demons and reach for their HEA, but Sabin's struggles are about to impact them in a big way. Chris cares deeply for his little brother, and Blythe and Sabin's relationship is intense and necessary to them both, but helping him through his turmoil is going to test them all.

*"Trauma – the gift that keeps on giving. Do you actually believe that you can run through the pain? You can't. You can't outrun shit."*

I really loved this story. I honestly wasn't sure how it was all going to unfold or where it was going to go, but I thought the way it all played out was really well done. It's not a love triangle, but it is an exploration of the complicated relationships between three people who love each other dearly - all of them still broken and still trying to find a way to move on from the traumas of their past.

*"Breathe. Just breathe."*

*"There's no air, Blythe."*

*"Reach for me. I won't let you drown. I'm right here."*

*He rubs my back some more and then laughs lightly. "You're already taken."*

*"I have two hands, Sabin. Grab one."*

*He thinks for a while, and I feel him take hold of his own hands to fully encircle me in his embrace. "I'm trying, love. I'm trying."*

It's emotional reading, and my heart hurt for them all as they revisit the past and try to help each other through. I enjoyed the strong focus on relationships – both romantic and family - and the way that was explored. And a huge shout out to Chris for being so incredibly sensational and standing by his family and his girl and being their rock even while continuing to go through his own stuff. And I love that in addition to the Blythe/Chris/Sabin storyline, we got continuation for the rest of the characters from the first book, and I really like the way their stories played out.

Though I must say, I did think parts of were a bit cheesy. The Blythe/Sabin dynamic got a bit too intense for me - (view spoiler). And as if it wasn't enough for the first book to have a big reveal (view spoiler), in this

book there is yet another one. (view spoiler). Meaningful to the story, yes, but after previous coincidental revelations, it just felt a bit eye rolling.

But those issues are minor and overall, I loved this book. I wouldn't consider it a must-read - *Left Drowning* finished off at a great place, and I would have been content to leave it at that - but I'm glad I read this story. It's beautifully written with a great combination of drama and romance, lots of laugh out loud moments and a nice amount of sexy time. I really enjoyed being back with these characters, and loved getting to further explore the wonderful dynamics that are in this book, and the healing that the characters continue to go through.

4 stars.

*A Review Copy was generously provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.*

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\*\*\*?Yasmine?\*\*\* says

**It's not a Romance, but it is most certainly a Love Story.**

**4 STARS**

*'Sometimes, I feel like... I don't know.'*

*But I do know. I have been there. 'Like you were left drowning.'*

*'Yes.'*

*'And you're struggling to breathe.'*

*'Yes.'*

*'So, do it. Breathe. Just breathe.'*

*'There's no air Blythe.'*

*'Reach for me. I won't let you drown. I'm right here.'*

*'You're already taken.'*

*'I have two hands, Sabian. Grab one.'*

*'I'm trying love. I'm trying.'*

**Genre:** NA Angst

**Cover:** 8/10

**Writing:** 9/10

**Heroine:** 8/10

**Hero:** 8/10

**Humour:** 1/10

**Hotness:** 3/10

**Romance:** 9/10

**Extra book Details:** Heroine POV; 1st person. Book 2 of at least 2 with the same lead characters.

***Restless Waters* is a heavy angst book with lots of emotion, heartbreak and love.**

Told from Blythe's POV, we catch up with her, her brother and the Shepard siblings. Blythe feels as if her little nest is fragmenting, like they're all flying the coop and she's trying hard to move on with the next

chapter in her life. But, **Sabian still needs her, now more than ever. He's unsettled, he's unpredictable and there is a storm brewing between them.**

I loved Jessica Parks writing, she never fails to produce some beautiful lines and keep me captivated. The angst was pretty high, a lot of 'deep' talks and thought, I would have liked some more actual scenes or just something light hearted to break up the heaviness of the book.

**As always, I loved the characters, Blythe is kick ass and both her and Chris are incredibly admirable. Sabian is also a beautiful character, humorous but with a tormented side.** The side characters easily have me wishing I could see inside their heads, or for them to have their own books.

It was mostly a 4.5 star read for me, I'm still in-between my rating of 4 and 4.5 stars, but I felt the end was anticlimactic, this probably isn't helped by the fact that **I was expecting more but then it ended at 80%.**

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## Lora Borzelleca says

I am about to take out all my aggression on this book so there WILL be spoilers ahead...

I did not want to read this book...but I'm no quitter and I never not finish a series. I hate stories where the girl is madly in love with her boyfriend but has inappropriate relationships with her best guy friend. This bull shit of being in love with their guy friend but their boyfriend is their soul mate...**FUCK THAT SHIT....**If there is a true friendship with someone of the opposite sex, you are not **IN** love with them, you just love them. I was about ready to break my kindle in half but then there was a really cute scene involving the past and nursery school...I actually started to change my attitude a little bit.....**BUT...**then the last few pages, Jessica Park you freaking shit all over this book and Chris's relationship with Blythe. Ok...so this is what pissed me off...so Sabin and Blythe are in love with each other but not sexually. Sabin goes to counseling to deal with his issues and is in a good place. They are running together and they said, hey we had two bad kisses, lets have a good one to make up for it. **SO THEY FUCKING KISS EACHOTHER.** Like it was no big freaking deal and they said it would be their kiss, no one would ever know. How would Chris feel is he witnessed that kiss. How would Blythe feel is she knew Chris did this exact scenario with his ex Jennifer...I would think not so well since Blythe was a complete bitch for finding an old wedding invitation of Chris & Jennifer's. Also, Jessica Park tried to make Blythe's boyfriend Chris is to this most amazing understanding and beautiful boyfriend by being understanding. But honestly, in my eyes, you made him a chump, a turn a blind eye kind of guy...pretty much a **FUCKING CHUMP.** She completely shit **ALL OVER** a wonderful relationship from the first book of the series. I can honestly say, that is more books come out in this series, I will not read them...I will ruin my streak of finishing every book and every series, after 1,112 books read...I will **REFUSE** to read anymore about these characters.

Ok...now most of this rant probably doesn't make sense, is probably misspelled and is most likely incoherent...but I feel better getting that off my chest...if you don't agree with me, my apologies...but I couldn't keep that disappointment inside anymore.

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## **Donna ~ The Romance Cover says**

Restless Waters (Left Drowning #2) by Jessica Park  
5 stars!!

“Trauma - the gift that keeps on giving.”

Two years ago I read a book that literally decimated me, I even created a tag line for it, “you’ve hit 69% now cry like a bitch.” Left Drowning hit me hard and it is a book that is at the top of my all time favourite reads. You can read my review here <http://www.theromancecover.com/2013/0...>

You can imagine my jubilation when Jessica Park announced that she was working on a secret project and only giving us a few days notice announces that Restless Waters has gone live and it is Left Drowning 2, to say I was excited was an understatement, especially knowing that this was essentially Sabin’s story.

“Because the girl I trust most in this world is taken.”

Sometimes an author really delivers on character connection and Jessica Park nailed this with Left Drowning, I had taken this bunch of misfits into my heart and soul and they have stayed there for the past two years. I was hesitant to start because I just knew that this book was going to kill me, if it was anything like Left Drowning I was going to be an emotional mess, but then knowing that this book was hot property and to avoid any spoilers, I put on my big girl panties and dived straight in, dropping my current read and I hardly ever do that.

“You draw me in, and we’re completely in sync. I’m fucking complete.”

This book is not as bad as Left Drowning you will be pleased to hear but it still is one book that packs an emotional punch and has its fair share of angst. Jessica Park always manages to hit me hard with her quirky characters, they are so different that you cannot forget them and diving into this book brought all those feelings and emotions flooding back. Even though Blythe is still the narrator effectively, there is no doubt that this is Sabin’s story but we are still treated to catching up with everyone in this “family.”

“I have two hands, Sabin. Grab one.”

This book was a voyage of discovery for our three main characters, Blythe, Chris and most importantly Sabin. All three are broken, all three have their fears, but most importantly they have each other and when the past comes back to haunt Sabin all three have to dig deep to get through it. I love this “family” and while what some people on the outside would see as a bunch of misfits, they are as tight as any biological family, if not more so. These characters are bonded by pain and circumstances, by love, by their pasts but most importantly their futures and the relationship that they have can only bring tears to your eyes.

“And we have us. We don’t follow rules.”

While *Restless Waters* was no comparison on the “tear scale” I will admit that quite a few fell while reading this book. Jessica Park nails the emotion and as I said above the character connection. When they hurt, I hurt and that is something that I love in a book. It takes talent to draw out those intense, overwhelming feelings in relation to characters and every single time Jessica Park hits me hard. Whether it be her *Flat Out* series, *Left Drowning* series or even *Clear*, each book brings that emotion out on so many different levels, while compensating your tears with her ever present wit.

Sabin has always been an integral character and while on the outside he portrays that charismatic, hilarious, deep, loyal, loving façade, underneath all his pretences is a man that is overcome with guilt however misguided. He is drowning in his thoughts, he is drowning in jealousy and there is only so much one person can take before the water finally pulls them under for good. Sabin feels he only has one choice and that is to get the hell out of there. He needs to find Sabin, the real Sabin and he can only do that if he is not surrounded by constant reminders of his past.

“It’s like you’re in my blood...I can’t get you out.”

For a tight knit family like this Sabin’s departure is not only shocking but also creates major separation anxiety with Blythe. Sabin has always been her constant, her companion, her confidante, her best friend and while she still has the love and guidance of Chris, losing Sabin is like chopping off an appendage and she doesn’t cope very well. The trouble is, with so many miles between them will Sabin be able to surface from the sea, or will he just drown anyway?

“It’s hard to float in a storm.”

Jessica Park, I seriously take my hat off to you, once again you have delivered an emotional, heartfelt story that rocked me to my core once again. A book that delivered everything, a book that was perfectly balanced, that ebbed and flowed with your emotions, while leaving that life buoy just a finger tip away. I seriously cannot recommend this series enough; it is one that I will never forget and one that I have re-read several times. As always, I am greedy and would love to hear more from them, but as I wasn’t expecting this one, I

will wait patiently for the next secret project and just hope it pertains to this one. Amazing book, totally and utterly loved it.

“Of course we circled back to each other. This is where we all belong.”

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